

HOWARD COUNTY BRAC TASK FORCE

BRAC BIT: #33

DATE: 12 April 2009

SUBJECT(S): Howard County BRAC Business Initiative (BBI) Meeting

POINT OF CONTACT: Kent Menser (410-313-6521)

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DISCUSSION:

1. **Howard County BRAC Business Initiative (BBI):** I just want remind all of our constituents of our BBI meeting that will be taking place on 14 April (Tuesday) at 5:30 PM in classroom #5 of the Howard County Gateway Building, 6751 Columbia Gateway Dr, Columbia, MD. It does not matter if you are on our BRAC Task Force or not. If you have an interest in this subject, please come join us.
2. **Agenda:**
 - a. *Introduction of the BBI (Kent Menser)*
 - b. *Open discussion with attendees on the goals, objectives and strategies(All)*
 - c. *Identification of volunteers who may want to participate either as a company or an individual.(Kent Menser)*
 - o *We will be looking for small and minority business to enter the BBI during phase B in the August 2009 timeframe.*
 - o *We are looking for several experienced business volunteers, retired, semi-retired or awaiting a job opportunity, to work with us for around 10 hours a week or more if possible. Great place to contribute, learn and network!*
 - d. *Close NLT 6:30 PM*
3. **BRAC Business Initiative Defined:**
 - a. For the past year, the leadership of the Howard County BRAC Task Force has been discussing a business initiative focused on assisting small and minority businesses in conducting business with the Department of Defense and supporting contractors. The time has arrived to transform talk into action. Congressman Elijah Cummings and Howard County Executive Ken Ulman are combining their offices and their dedication to the businesses of Howard County into a single program called the HOWARD COUNTY BRAC BUSINESS INITIATIVE.
 - b. The Goals of this initiative are as follows:
 - o Identify obstacles to small and minority businesses that block their path to successful work with the Federal Government and supporting contractors
 - o Increase the awareness of the leadership and the general business community of Howard County with the federal contracting environment, which provides both opportunities and challenges for our small and minority businesses
 - o Develop a responsive and flexible template that small and minority businesses may follow to eliminate, reduce and/or avoid obstacles to business success relating to Fort Meade growth.
 - o Assess the actual performance of the participating businesses, advisory companies, Federal Government and supporting contractors. Compare actions to desired performance.